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NPIC/TSSG/RED-1854-69  
6 October 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSSG  
SUBJECT : Rear Projection Viewers

1. This note is to confirm and elaborate on our discussion with [ ] last Friday at lunch time.

2. During my discussion with [ ] concerning their Imagery Interpretation Research Program, one of the more significant items that turned up was John's opinion concerning rear projection viewers. Although he had been highly in favor of this type of viewing aid for some of our PI processes in the past, observations he made during the evaluation of the rear projection screen for [ ] has caused him to doubt their usefulness in our PI operations. He was not free to discuss these observations in detail with me due to their relationship with [ ] in performing this evaluation. Some of the matters he did discuss were as follows:

a. He notes the contrast reduction and the consequent resolution fall-off but he was particularly surprised to note the significant fall-off at or near the lens axis. As a result of these, he doubts that any type of scattering screen will provide suitable performance for our viewing requirements. The lenticular screen that [ ] is presently working on offers some possibility of a break-through in this area, but also the problem of devising an economically feasible manufacturing technique.

b. [ ] observes that Front Projection Viewers are not saddled with these problems and believes that it would be possible to design one using modern optical technology that would be suitable from the space and observer interference stand points.

c. [ ] feels that it is particularly appropriate for the need for projection type viewing to be evaluated at this time and suggests a task be considered for this purpose.

3. I discussed these matters with [ ] briefly and he recommended the following:

a. Arrange a [ ] briefing in this regard for appropriate RED personnel.

b. Obtain [ ] recommendation for screen to be used in the [ ] viewer.

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c. Consider feasibility of [ ] briefing for [ ]

4. [ ] reminded me that it would be necessary to coordinate this activity with [ ] before they could give us a comprehensive briefing or disclose their findings with respect to the relative performance of various screen materials.

[ ]  
Special Assistant for Plans & Applications, RED

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